

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00629

FOR AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSION REGARDING
CLARIFYING LANGUAGE

REF: CAPE TOWN 18

1. CONTACT GROUP MET AM FEBRUARY 22 TO DRAFT IMPROVEMENTS
IN PROPOSAL BEARING IN MIND THE REACTIONS OF SWAPO AND
SOUTH AFRICA TO THE CLARIFYING LANGUAGE DISCUSSED. CHANGES
ADOPTED BY GROUP AND EXPLANATORY COMMENTS FOR USE WITH
FOURIE WILL FOLLOW (SEPTTEL).
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2. ON ONE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE THE GROUP WAS UNABLE TO REACH
AGREEMENT. THAT ISSUE INVOLVES SOUTH AFRICA'S OBJECTION
TO THE STATEMENT IN THE PROPOSAL (PARA 8B) THAT THE
SOUTH AFRICAN RESIDUAL FORCE "WOULD BE WITHDRAWN AFTER THE
CERTIFICATION OF THE ELECTION". SOUTH AFRICA HAS SUGGESTED
THE ALTERNATIVE STATEMENT: "THE WITHDRAWAL MUST BE COM-

PLETED BY INDEPENDENCE SUBJECT TO WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS THE NEW NAMIBIAN GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE MADE FOR THE FUTURE". IN AN EFFORT TO SATISFY THE SOUTH AFRICAN OBJECTION, THE BRITISH HAVE PROPOSED: "THEIR SUBSEQUENT WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY".

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT A MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO OVERCOME SOUTH AFRICAN CONCERNS; NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT, BY PLACING A CONDITION ON THE WITHDRAWAL, WE MAY STIR UP DOUBTS WITHIN SWAPO AS TO OUR COMMITMENT TO SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW IMPORTANT A DATE FOR UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL WAS IN OBTAINING SWAPO'S AGREEMENT TO THE RESIDUAL FORCE CONCEPT. THE INTRODUCTION OF CONDITIONS AT THIS POINT MAY CAUSE A WITHDRAWAL OF THAT APPROVAL.

4. IN THIS REGARD, AMBASSADOR MCHENRY RAISED WITH GROUP THE SUGGESTION, CONTAINED IN FEBRUARY 19 ARTICLE BY FLEUR DE VILLIERS (REFTEL), THAT FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL OF RESIDUAL FORCE, NAMIBIAN POLICE COULD BE AUGMENTED TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER. NOTING THAT DE VILLIERS FREQUENTLY WRITES ON THE BASIS OF A BRIEFING BY BOTHA, MCHENRY SUGGESTED THAT WE EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF ENLARGING POLICE FORCE DURING TRANSITION, IF WE DECIDE AGAINST A CHANGE IN CONDITIONS OF WITHDRAWAL. SUCH A CHANGE
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MIGHT MEET SOUTH AFRICAN CONCERN REGARDING THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER. SUCH A COURSE, CARRIED OUT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD, OF COURSE, REQUIRE A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF UN PERSONNEL MONITORING THE POLICE. GROUP AGREED TO EXAMINE THIS SUGGESTION.

5. CONTACT GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED THE SOUTH AFRICAN DESIRE FOR A MECHANISM FOR RESOLVING DISPUTES BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL AND THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. THE BRITISH SUGGESTED THAT THE FIVE COULD OFFER THE ASSISTANCE OF THEIR AMBASSADORS IN CAPE TOWN. THE CAPE TOWN FIVE WOULD NOT BE EMPOWERED TO SETTLE DISPUTES IN ANY FORMAL WAY, BUT THEY COULD OFFER THEIR ADVICE TO THE TWO OFFICIALS IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE DISPUTES. AS ENVISAGED BY THE BRITISH, SUCH A MECHANISM CF THE AG AND SR. NOTING THE OBVIOUS DRAWBACKS TO THIS SUGGESTION BUT ALSO THE LACK OF ANY PROMISING ALTERNATIVE MECHANISM, THE GROUP AGREED TO CONSIDER THE MATTER FURTHER. YOUNG

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